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**Studien über Gebirgspässe. Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Ostalpen. Versuch einer Klassifikation von Dr. Johann Sölch.** From "Forschungen zur deutschen Landes-und Volkskunde," Band 7, Heft 2, pp. 123-273. J. Engelhorn, Stuttgart, 1908. M. 8.

A work that will be of interest and value to all specialists in physiography. The subject of mountain passes, their genesis and classification, requires further study before the final word can be written upon it, but Dr. Sölch has made an important contribution to its literature. His book shows that the morphological history of passes presents many problems, some of which have been definitely answered, others may be hypothetically explained, while many require further investigation. He gives a copious bibliography of the subject.

**Conquering the Arctic Ice. By Ejnar Mikkelsen.** xii and 470 pp., many Illustrations, 3 Maps, Appendixes and Index. George W. Jacobs & Co., Philadelphia, 1909. \$3.50.

This book will have a worthy place in Arctic literature. It records the work of the Anglo-American Polar Expedition (1906-7), including Mr. Mikkelsen's adventuresome return to civilization, by sledge, over the wastes of Alaska, in the winter of 1907-8, all his comrades, excepting Mr. Leffingwell, having returned by ship before the close of navigation in 1907. Mr. Mikkelsen and Mr. Leffingwell were the joint commanders of the expedition, which included only nine men with the small schooner, *Duchess of Bedford*, which proved not well adapted for hard arctic service and finally sank at her anchorage, Flaxman Island, on the north coast of Alaska, in the spring of 1907. The condensed history of the expedition and its work is given in the *Bulletin* volumes of 1906 and 1907.

The party suffered from inadequate equipment, but it did hard, honest work, and its results were worth while. Its main purpose was to sledge over the sea ice north of Alaska in the search for land which, for various theoretical reasons, was thought likely to exist. Only the two leaders and Storkersen, a sailor, with their dogs, took part in this sledge journey and they reached a latitude of only about 100 miles north of Flaxman Island, but they made a very significant discovery. They found that the continental shelf was very narrow, and, long before they reached their highest point, they stood above waters of oceanic depth, which, according to present theories, discredits the supposition that there is land to the north of that part of the Arctic. The journey over broken ice, heaped in pressure ridges, was a terrible one and most creditable to the men who accomplished it.

The book is the story not only of this journey, but also of surveys and travel along the northern coast of Alaska and its rivers, ethnological studies of the Eskimo, scattered along the coast for many degrees of longitude, winter and summer life there and Mikkelsen's remarkable sledge journey of hundreds of miles from the arctic coast southwest across Alaska. The work is most entertainingly written and the photographs, over 100 in number, are exceedingly good. There is no other book which, besides supplying a very readable account of arctic endeavour, also throws so much light upon all phases of life along the northern coast of Alaska.

**L'Amérique précolombienne. Essai sur l'Origine de sa Civilisation. Par Alphonse Gagnon.** 371 pp., and 55 Illustrations. Laflamme & Proulx, Quebec, 1908.

This book is a very readable study of prehistoric American monuments and races and of the resemblances which many archæological remains in America